

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUDAPE 03595 190809Z

17  
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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, HU  
SUBJ: HUNGARIAN PARLIAMENT PASSES LAW ON MASS EDUCATION AND CULTURE

1. DURING ITS OCTOBER 14-16 SESSION, HUNGARIAN PARLIAMENT PASSED A NEW LAW ON MASS EDUCATION AND CULTURE (KOZMUVELODESI TORVENY). THE LAW WHICH HAS BEEN IN PREPARATION FOR OVER TWO YEARS IS INTENDED PRIMARILY TO INCREASE AND EXTEND CULTURAL AND ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES TO THE ENTIRE POPULATION, AND INTENSIFY THE EFFORTS OF THE MASS MEDIA IN QUOTE FORMING A WELL-ROUNDED, EDUCATED AND CULTURED SOCIALIST MAN UNQUOTE.

2. JUST LIKE THE DISCUSSIONS OF THE PAST THREE YEARS, A READING OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE LAW DO NOT MAKE IT CLEAR EXACTLY WHAT IT WILL DO. IT WILL, APPARENTLY, PROVIDE FUNDS FOR CITY AND COUNTY COUNCILS, APARTMENT BLOCK COUNCILS, CULTURAL CLUBS AT FACTORIES, YOUNG COMMUNISTS' LEAGUES (KISZ), TRADE UNION AND AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE CENTERS, AND MILITARY BARRACKS, TO ESTABLISH OR EXPAND LIBRARIES AND READING ROOMS, AND TO ORGANIZE CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION GROUPS.

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PAGE 02 BUDAPE 03595 190809Z

3. THE LAW ALSO WILL PROVIDE INCREASED SUPPORT FOR

PUBLIC LIBRARIES, PUBLISHERS OF BOOKS AND PERIODICALS,  
AS WELL AS RADIO, TELEVISION AND FILM-MAKERS, IN  
ORDER TO QUOTE REACH THE MASSES MORE EFFECTIVELY UNQUOTE.

4. COMMENT: PASSAGE OF THE LAW DOES NOT REFLECT ANY  
RECENT DECISIONS TO INTENSIFY IDEOLOGICAL PROPAGANDA FOR  
THE MASSES, RATHER IT REPRESENTS THE PARTY'S ON-GOING  
EFFORTS TO MAKE EDUCATION FOR SOCIALISM MORE EFFECTIVE  
ON A MASS BASIS, A GOAL THEY HAVE HAD ALL ALONG. IT  
ALSO INDICATES THE HSWP'S BELIEF THAT THE EXTENSIVE CULTURAL  
OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE IN HUNGARY AND PARTICULARLY IN  
BUDAPEST ARE STILL REACHING TOO NARROW A RANGE OF THE  
POPULATION, AND APPEALING MOSTLY TO THE INTELLECTUAM  
ELITE. WHAT PRACTICAL EFFECTS, IF ANY, THE LAW WILL  
HAVE, REAMINS TO BE SEEN. END COMMENT.  
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